

Project Brief

On the Road to Arcology: Gateway to the next urban renewal

Due to the large population growth projected for the western suburbs over the next 40-50 years, with a projected increase of 1-2% in the inner west and 2% in the outer west by 2026, the implication of this growth would designate a need for new housing developments, utilities, employment as well as a transportation network which will therefore constitute a new western gateway suburb.

Newport is perfectly located to fit this need, located between western Melbourne and inner Melbourne with great potential to become a transportation hub. Simply put, Newport can connect the western suburbs to Melbourne via Newport. This new western gateway suburb will act as a secondary hub of activity to Melbourne's Hoddle grid by providing high density residential, areas of commerce, public and private spaces, and an improved transport network.

Aim: to examine the idea of connectivity and how Newport can make way for a new precedents in domestic living, commerce and transportation while become a sustainably long term western hub while maintaining and enhancing its urban character and livability.

Objective: to inject Arcology, a term devised by Paolo Soleri meaning simply, the harmony between architecture, into Newport as a precedents for future high population living and movement.

Site: The Newport train station will act as a base in which development will take place above and around the station itself, bleeding into the nearby bus terminal and shopping strips to the east and west.

Commerce: provide more locations for commerce within this Arcology, while maintaining flexibility for future demands as they arise.

Proposal: A large mixed use medium rise complex of approximately 15-25 storeys containing, retail, residential, public space and community functions. Additionally, this development will repurpose existing heritage areas adjacent to the station.

Transport: Insufficient bus line; proposal of new tram network to join nodes within Hobson's bay and neighboring metropolitan suburbs, such as Footscray. Train line to Wirraway, Sandridge, Montague and Lorimer or collectively Fisherman's bend south Melbourne.

In summary, the additions of Arcology and a new transportation network will improve Newport and western Melbourne by allowing the projected growth to occur without straining the current ecology.